

REMARKS

The office action of June 25, 2009, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over EP 1240997 to Hasenbein in view of the patent to Hiller.

Claims 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hasenbein and Hiller, and further in view of the patent to Wetmore.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims applicant has canceled claims 8 and 16, and amended claims 1-5, 7, 9-15 and 17.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to Hasenbein, it can be seen that this reference discloses a press bar having

distance spacers. However, the spacers are not formed as deposit welds. Also, Hasenbein does not teach a body that has a substantially rectangular cross section with an upper surface formed by a wear surface, which wear surface is angled, as in the presently claimed invention.

The patent to Hiller discloses a fluid expressing method. Hiller has no spacers that are formed by deposit welds, nor is there a body that has a substantially rectangular cross section with an upper surface formed by a wear surface, which wear surface is angled, as in the presently claimed invention.

The Examiner combined Hiller with Hasenbein in determining that claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-16 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references, nor their combination, teach a press bar having distance spacers formed as deposit welds. The combination of references also does not teach a body that has a substantially rectangular cross section with an upper surface formed by a wear surface, which wear surface is angled, as in the presently claimed invention. The ground spacers of Hiller are cast as one piece with the body of the press bar. When dealing with cast parts there is an additional step required, namely grinding the uneven

upper surfaces in order to improve the surface quality and maintain predefined tolerances. However, with casting the desired contour is provided by the casting process itself, not by the subsequent grinding. The presently claimed invention has as one of its objects, the avoidance of a complex casting process as is carried out by Hiller. Instead, a rectangular base body is used that is made by conventional rolling, and subsequently spacers are provided as deposit welds. Because the contour of the spacers is undefined due to the welding the spacers are ground to provide the angled orientation of the upper surface. This is not taught by the references.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Wetmore has also been considered. This reference adds nothing to the teachings of the previously discussed references so as to suggest the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted

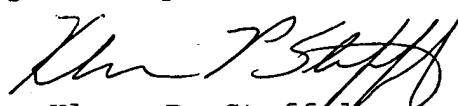
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that the rejection of claims 9 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

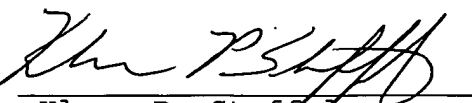
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 25, 2009.

By:   
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: November 25, 2009